CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1

COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Construction of a Dam and Power Station near Vir	DATE DISTR.	13 March 1953
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. The site of the construction of a dam and power station is on the upper reaches of the Svratka river at the foot of the Ceskomoravska Highlands between the communities of Vir (050/N13), Hrda Ves and Chubodin. The dam is to be of solid construction (concrete masonry).

2. The dam is being built in order to control the spring water floods and prevent the wastage of water. The spring water floods are to be the main source for stocking the reservoir because the water from the Svratka river is insufficient in quantity to drive the turbines in the power station.

3. The dam is also intended to drive the hydro-power station which is to be in operation for four hours daily and will supply power in peak hours. A lower auxiliary dam will hold back the water which flows through the power station piping during the four hours, releasing the water gradually throughout 24 hours, by an automatic trap device.

Description

4. Width of dam at the foot of the foundation . 39 m.

Width of dam at its top 8 m.

Length of the foundation about 60 m.

Length at its top about 350 m.

The height from the foot of the foundation will be about 70 m. The dam has the shape of an arch directed against the water-pressure. Inside the dam there are horizontal and vertical control shafts.

Construction

5. A trough about one meter deep is being drilled and blasted to support the base of the dam and this is being laid out with stones according to the

1 of

STATE	ARMY	NAVY	AIR	FBI	AEC				
x	x	x	x						

(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#".)

Larsen system of trestle construction. Further down, the trough is being excavated by hand to prevent weakening the supporting layer by shock. The depth of this further excavation depends on the nature of the rock, which is mostly Gneiss, except for one belt of weathered and decomposed mica-slate around the middle.

6. After finishing the excavation, the trough is cleaned with blowers as well as ordinary and wire brushes, and then washed out under pressure. Only then is the casing for pouring concrete made and fixed with the aid of concrete plaster, and all splinters and foreign matter are cleaned away once more. After that, the actual pouring of concrete starts. Needle-vibrators are mostly employed to strengthen the concrete mixture. These are of [redacted] 25X1 and domestic manufacture. The domestic machinery is subject to frequent break-downs.

7. The pouring of concrete is done with a moist mixture which is brought to the spot by a narrow-gauge field-railroad, onto bridges above the construction, and is then tipped into place. The mixture is evened out by hand and compressed by vibrators.

8. Concrete is made in two concrete mixers with a capacity of 2,500 liters each. One of them is of German make, the other a [redacted] product delivered to 25X1 Czechoslovakia in the autumn of 1949. Before the latter concrete mixer was delivered to the concrete works here, it was sent to the Kralovo Pole Iron Works in Brno, where the machine was copied. Above the mixer, there is an automatic scale which weighs the quantity of ground stone, concrete and water, the mixture of which then goes into the mixer.

9. Building with concrete is done in blocks 20 x 20 x 1.5 m. Concrete is delivered from Bystrice nad Persteynem by truck but a wire-rope railway is now being constructed for this purpose [redacted] 25X1

10. The laboratory takes samples of the concrete from the mixers and tests its resistance against pressure and permeability under a pressure of about 7 atmospheres. The concrete from the mixers has sufficient resistance against pressure but is permeable and therefore has to be injected. The head of the laboratory is Eng. Cizek from Znojmo.

Personnel

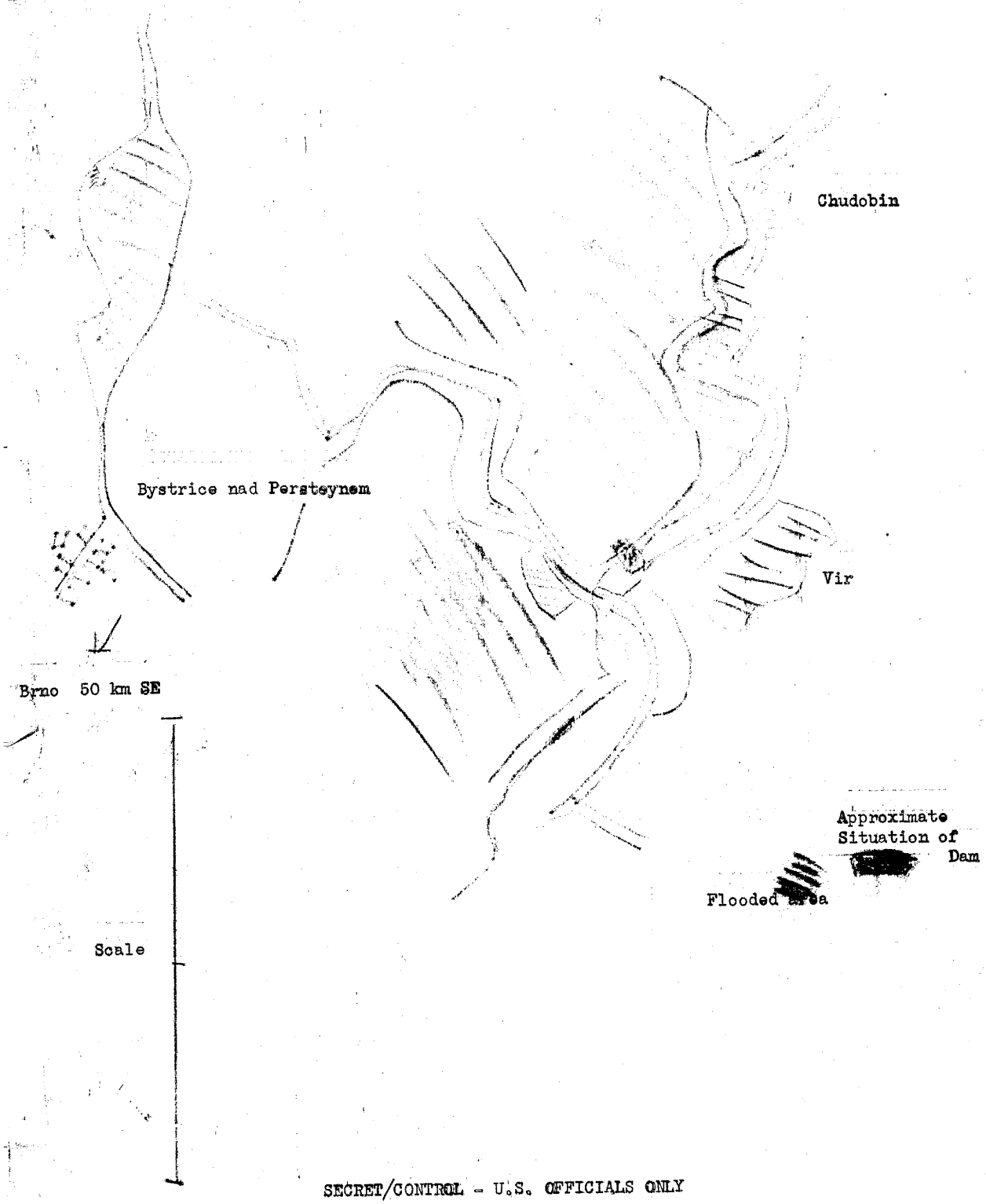
11. The director is Eng. (fnu) Lefner [redacted] 25X1

12. The total number of employees is about 2,000, directed here from all parts of the Republic; there are also about 300 foreigners (Hungarians [redacted]). 25X1 These foreigners are all very bad and unreliable workers. Workers have been on strike several times because of low wages. About one third of the clerical employees are CP members, the rest nonpolitical.

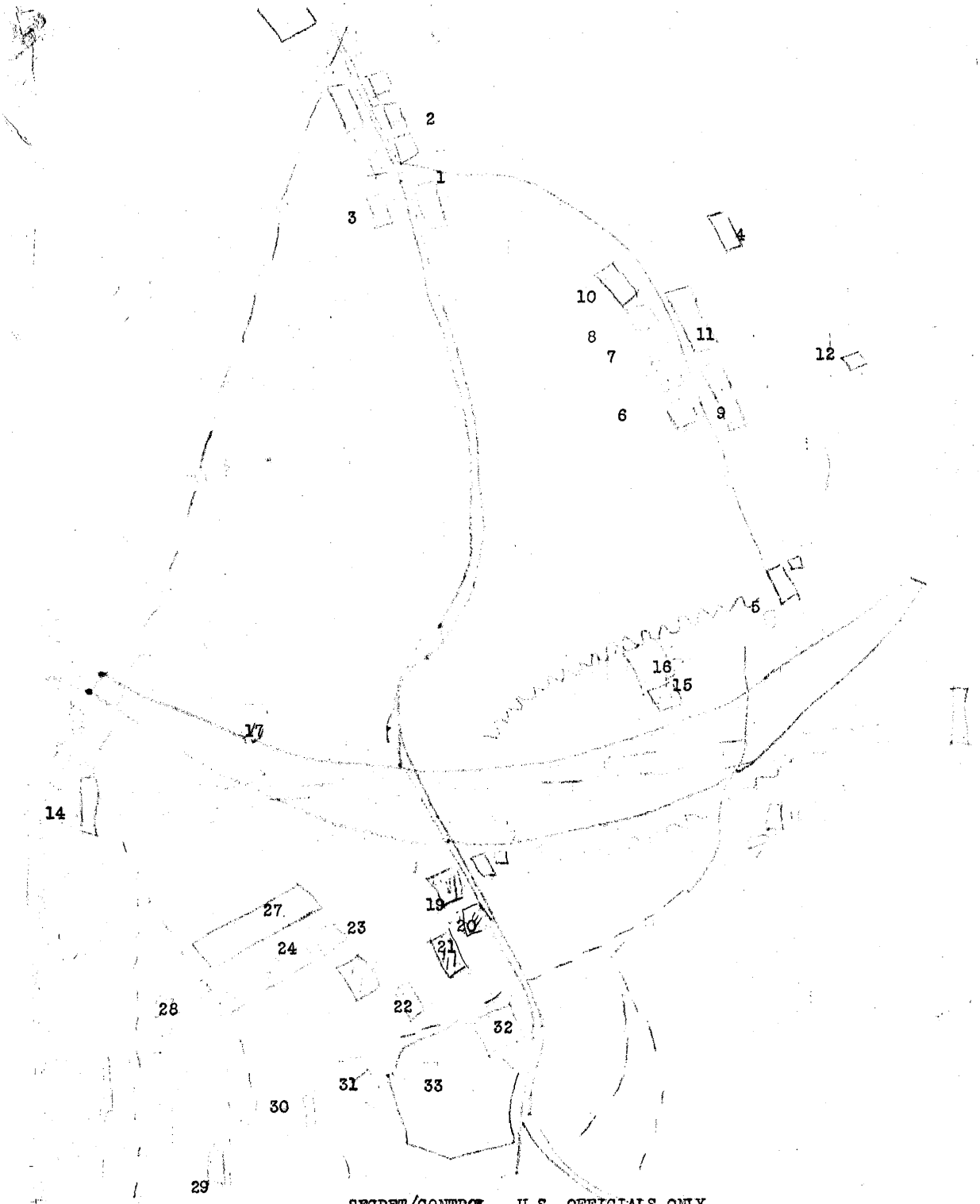
13. There are frequent changes in management. The former manager of the project, Eng. (fnu) Pluhar, nonpolitical, was replaced by the chairman of the CP organization of the Building Engineering Works in Brno, (fnu) Sova. [redacted] 25X1 Chief construction engineer, Eng. Mir. Sobotka, chairman of the CP shop-council, was a good expert but neglected his work for the sake of political activities. He was therefore replaced by Eng. Lefner.

Annexes: (A) Sketch of area where the dam and power station are located.
(B) Sketch of the dam site.
(C) Legend explaining Annex (B).

Sketch of area where the dam and power station are located



Sketch of the dam site



Annex(C)

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Legend to Annex (B)

1. Porter's Lodge
2. Main offices
3. Political and Geometrical office.
4. Accommodation for clerks.
5. Fuel storage
6. Vehicle repair shop.
7. Garages.
8. Storage for iron
9. Main storage
10. Electrical workshop and welding shop.
11. Locksmith, blacksmith, tinsmith.
12. Storage for explosives.
13. Compressors.
14. Cable-crane.
15. Power Station.
16. Canteen.
17. Dam
18. Auxiliary store.
19. Carpenter's shop
20. Office for foremen
21. Shed for machines
22. - 27. Grinding shops, sorting sheds, concrete mixing shops.
28. Transformer.
29. Shed for locomotive
30. Laboratory.
31. Saw-mill
32. Bending of iron bars for concrete.
33. Timber shed.

main road

path

wire-rope railway

branch line.

holder made of "stetovnice Larsen" (sheet iron)